25a Hooper and Field 3-5 (1934) 1937 MAI Iran MAI
Iraq MHI



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Opium is known locally as Afyun, but the cultivation of the opium poppy is prohibited in Iraq. The capsules, some of them scarified, are sold in the bazaars, but their narcotic effects are less powerful and more uncertain than those of opium. The seeds contain 50 per cent of drying oil, which is sometimes called Roghan-i-khash khāsh. The seeds, often erroneously supposed to be poisonous because they are contained in the opium-yielding capsule, are wholesome and nutritious, and are eaten chiefly in sweetmeats.—The seeds are given to relieve epistaxis; an oil derived from them is employed in making soap. The fruits mixed with *Malva sylvestris* L. var. *mauritiana* Boiss. and *Linum usitatissimum* L. form a paste for application to boils (H.F.).

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**Parmelia kamtschdalis** Esch. A lichen. See *Roccella Montagnei* Bél.

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**Peganum Harmala** L. (Rutaceae)

تخم اسفند

Tukhm-i-isfand, Sipand (Teh.); Harmal, Harmal rutbah (Ar., Iraq); Aspand (Kurd.); Uzarih (Turk.); the Syrian rue.

Achundow; Schl.; Post; Boiss. 1: 917; Fl. Br. Ind. 1: 486; Ph. Ind. 1: 75; Weisner 44.

Field 46; 4, 26, 27, 119 (Iraq); W.H.M.M. 150850; K.B. 329.

The mountain rue is a plant of Iran, Arabia, Syria, North Africa, and southern Europe. The plant and seeds were used medicinally by the Greeks and Romans, and were noted in European herbals in the 17th century. The seeds are exported from Iran into India, where the plant was originally introduced by Mohammedans. The seeds are dull gray, 2 mm. long, angular, having a bitter taste, and, when crushed, a heavy, narcotic odor. The active principle resides in the alkaloids, harmaline and harmine. The custom prevails in Iran and Iraq of sprinkling the seeds on burning coals at marriages to avert the malignant influence of the Evil Eye; the smoke from the burning seeds is said to drive away epidemics. The seeds are reputed to be an alterative and purifying medicine, and are supposed to stimulate the sexual system.

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**Peucedanum graveolens** Benth. & Hook. (*Anethum graveolens* L.) (Umbelliferae)

تخم شوید

Tukhm-i-shivīd (Teh.); Shivit (Isf.); Shabbit (Ar.); Sawa, Soyah (Hind.); Habbat Halwah (Iraq); Anitum (Yunani); dill.